Amount spent on VRS/VSS in PSEs

1013. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent on VRS and VSS in public sector enterprises during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(b) the capital expenditure for the purpose of revival of sick public enterprises during the above years; and

(c) the number of employees separated through VRS/VSS during these years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABH BHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Grant provided to Government of Rajasthan

†1014. DR. MAHESH CHANDRA SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount provided by his Ministry to Government of Rajasthan during the financial years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 in the form of grant alongwith the details of the items, programmes or plants and any particular field for which the amount was given; and

(b) whether the Government of Rajasthan has sent the account of the expenditure of the said amount in time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABH BHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises is not presently operating any Centrally sponsored scheme.

Reviewing of navratna or miniratna status to PSEs

1015. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are reviewing navratna or miniratna status conferred on public sector enterprises; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABH BHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) No specific exercise is presently underway.

Retirement age in PSUs

1016. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hindustan Steel Works construction has reduced the retirement age of its employees from 60 years to 58 years;

(b) if so, the number of employees retiring consequent to this decision of the Government;

(c) whether Government proposes to reduce the age of retirement in some other Public Sector Enterprises also; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABH BHAI KATHIRIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 157 employees would retire during the current year as a result of this decision.

(c) and(d) As per existing guidelines, the Board of Directors of the concerned PSU with the approval of the Minister Incharge of the administrative Ministry can take the decision to reduce the age of retirement.

PSUs in Bihar

1017. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the Central and State PSUs in Bihar are incurring heavy losses and are on the verge of closure;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for such a state of affairs; and

(c) what remedial action Government have taken or propose to take to save the PSUs of the State from closure?